

#LIVE LENT



CARE for GOD'S CREATION

A 40-Day Challenge



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation is the Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2020.

The contents of this booklet (and the accompanying children's version) have been inspired and informed by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2020, *Saying Yes to Life*, written by **Ruth Valerio** (Global Advocacy and Influencing Director, Tearfund) and published by **SPCK**.

The Church House Publishing and Church of England Communications teams would like to express their warmest gratitude to Ruth Valerio and to SPCK for the generosity and trust they have shown in allowing us to develop the daily reflections featured in both the print and digital **#LiveLent** resources. We would encourage people to read *Saying Yes to Life*, either individually or as part of a Lent group.

We are also grateful to members of the Environmental Working Group and colleagues at Lambeth Palace, Bishopthorpe Palace and Church House Westminster who have supported this collaborative approach.

Details of Ruth's book and the full range of resources for individuals, churches and groups – both digital and print – can be found at:

**[www.churchofengland.org/
livelent](http://www.churchofengland.org/livelent)**

Contents

Acknowledgements	2
Introduction by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York	4
How to use this booklet	7
Ash Wednesday to Lent 1 Beginnings	9
Week 1 Light and energy	15
Week 2 Water	23
Week 3 Land and plants	31
Week 4 Stars and seasons	39
Week 5 Creatures of sea and sky	47
Week 6 Humans and other animals	55
Easter Day Rest and restoration	62
Going Further Next steps for individuals and churches	65



Introduction by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

Lent is a time for reflection. Before the solemnity of Good Friday and the glory of the resurrection on Easter Day, Christians have the opportunity to remember Christ's withdrawal into the desert for forty days. It is a time to re-evaluate, a moment where we can turn away from the luxuries and distractions of daily life and face God. In so doing we face light, love and life.

Facing God makes Lent a time for renewal. God has entrusted us to look after his wonderful creation. We are called to care for and honour God's creation as a way of

delighting in its Creator. We are also called to care for our brothers and sisters all over the world who face having their families uprooted and their livelihoods destroyed by the effects of climate change. As part of our discipleship to Jesus Christ every single one of us has a responsibility to live a life of stewardship.

This Lent, we hope both adults and children might engage in God's plea for us to "Care for Creation". It is an opportunity for us to rebuild our relationship with our planet, and in turn with the God who is Lord of everything. During this time, we hope you might engage in prayer, learn more about the remarkable world we have been given and build habits that last beyond the season to protect and honour the earth.

These daily reflections and suggestions will provide you, your family and your church with an opportunity to come together to meet with God and rejoice in the beauty of God's creation. There are so many ways to be involved with this year's #LiveLent. Why not download the free app, get a group to pray together, or do some of the activities as a family?

Many Christians use Lent as an opportunity to give something up, to remember that Christ went without during his time in the wilderness. Perhaps you could consider giving something up as well to help the environment:

maybe you could forgo single use plastics, use less water or save electricity by turning off lights. If many of us do little things, they can add up to make a big difference. Even if they are marginal, they remind us of the importance of good stewardship.

At this time of year, we are all called to listen and respond to God's calling of each one of us in humility and repentance, so that Christ's death and resurrection at the end of Lent can bring the renewal, response and reconciliation that we so long for.

**Archbishop Justin Welby &
Archbishop John Sentamu**



How to use this booklet

There are 40 reflections, one for each of the forty days in Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (which falls on 26 February in 2020) and ends on Easter Eve (Saturday 11 April in 2020), plus one for Easter Day.

For each week (starting on Sundays from Week 1 onwards) there is:

- A **theme**, based on the days of creation as described in Genesis 1
- A **prayer** for use throughout the week, with words taken from well-known hymns.

For each day (Monday to Saturday) there are daily reflections which offer:

- A **theme**
- A **picture**
- A very short **passage from the Bible**
- A **short reflection** on the theme and reading
- A practical **action**.

There is also a version of the **daily challenge for children and families** available in the accompanying booklet *#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation – For Kids*.

Finally, there are a range of suggestions for **Going Further** as an individual and as a church. Find out more about the campaign at:
www.churchofengland.org/livelent



Week 2

WATER

This week we'll be reflecting on water's central place in both life and faith. We'll explore how we can better use, conserve and share this precious gift of God, strengthened and encouraged by our faith in Jesus who offers "living water".

Prayer for the week

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.*

from "I heard the voice of Jesus say",
by Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)



A CONSTANT CYCLE

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”

Read Genesis 1.6-8

Reflection

Water is constantly moving around the Earth from land and sea to air, and then from clouds back to Earth as rain.

God created and continues to create this cycle of water, which is an amazing feature of our world. Although fresh water covers less than 1% of the earth’s surface, we depend on it for our survival. It also provides the habitat for 10% of the world’s known species.

Action

As you notice water today – when you wash, drink, walk by a local pond, canal, river or beach – pause to thank God for this precious gift which sustains the life of our planet.



A SACRED GIFT

You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water

Read Psalm 65.9-13

Reflection

Many people’s happiest holiday memories involve water. Messing about in the pool, relaxing by or even sailing on the sea. As well as being a necessity, water also delights and inspires us.

The demand for water around the world is expected to rise by up to 50% by 2050. By conserving water we acknowledge that water is sacred – a gift from God. Doing this will not only help us survive but protect our landscapes and wildlife.

Action

Find out about the “virtual water” that goes into the things we use, the clothes we wear and the food we eat at www.waterfootprint.org
What could you cut down on?



A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

Read Mark 1.9-11

Reflection

Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan, the river which the Israelites crossed as they entered the promised land. This place of new life and freedom is the setting for Jesus' baptism.

When we are baptized, St Paul writes, we become "a new creation" and we follow a new way of life. In Jesus, God seeks to reconcile all things to himself. Through baptism we are called to join in that work by caring for all God has created.

Action

Can you take part in a clean-up of a local waterway – pond, canal, river or beach? Or encourage your church to organize one?



POLLUTION AND POVERTY

Then Moses ordered Israel to set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur ... When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter.

Read Exodus 15.22-27

Reflection

Freshwater ecosystems are in trouble. Since 1970, there has been an 83% decline in UK freshwater species of fish. Pollution kills life in our rivers and lakes and harms plants and animals – including humans. This is what sin looks like. Our environment destroyed. The lives of the most vulnerable inhabitants of our world endangered. Reversing pollution – so that the waters can again be fresh and sustain life – requires repentance. By governments, businesses, and by us, too.

Action

Look in your kitchen and bathroom – is there one thing from each you could switch to a product that does not contain harmful chemicals?

“These daily reflections and suggestions will provide you, your family and your church with an opportunity to come together to meet with God and rejoice in the beauty of God’s creation.”

**From the Introduction by the
Archbishops of Canterbury and York**

During Lent Christians prepare to celebrate God’s redemption of the world in Jesus at Easter. **#LiveLent: Care for God’s Creation** will help broaden your view of Christ’s redeeming mission – a mission Christians are called to share. With weekly themes and prayers shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created.

For each day of Lent, it offers a Bible reading, a short reflection and a suggested action to help you live in greater harmony with God, neighbour and nature.

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Supporting resources for churches, groups and individuals – including an accompanying booklet for children and families – can be found via:

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Also available
from Church
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